शैक्षिक संस्थाओं में आरक्षण सहित आरक्षण से संबंधित विभिन्न मुद्दों पर विचार करने के लिए राजनैतिक दलों के नेताओं की एक बैठक 14 जनवरी, 1995 को बुलाई थी। तथापि कुछ राज्यों में आसन्न चुनावों के कारण उस अवसर पर सभी मुद्दों पर विचार करना व्यवहार्य नहीं पाया गया। इस बैठक में केवल सिविल सेवा परीक्षा 1995 के संदर्भ में अन्य पिछड़े वर्ग के उम्मीदवारों को कुछ छूटें देने के सीमित मुद्दे पर ही चर्चा हुई थी। अन्य पिछड़े वर्गों को शैक्षिक संस्थाओं में आरक्षण सहित पिछड़े वर्गों से संबंधित विभिन्न मुद्दों पर विचार-विमर्श के लिए बैठक की कोई तारीख कल्याण मंत्री द्वारा निश्चित नहीं की गई है।

Handicapped rehabilitation programmes

1943. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the percentage of posts and appointments for the handicapped and include rehabilitation of the mentally handicapped persons under the purview of the handicapped rehabilitation programmes; and

(b) whether Government also have a scheme for providing self employment opportunities to the handicapped including the mentally retarded/handicapped persons, if so, the details in this regard and whether the programme involved the creation of a National Fund for development of the handicapped?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to increase the existing percentage of reservation for handicapped in Government jobs.

(b) Government provide many facilities for promoting self-employment opportunities like telephone booths to handicapped persons, loan at differential rate of interest of 4 percent, allotment of Kiosks, vending stalls and booths, petrol pumps, gas dealership, kerosene oil dealership, etc. Under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) handicapped persons in rural areas are also eligible for self-employment opportunities like poultry, fishery, dairy and other agro-based activities.

Besides, a proposal to set up a National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation is also under consideration. The main objectives of the Corporation would be to promote economic and developmental activities and self-employment opportunities for the handicapped persons. A token provision of Rs. one crore has been made in th plan budget for the year 1995-96.

(The Deputy Chairman in the Chair)

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Correcting Answer to Starred Questions 259 answered on 23rd December 1994 regarding probe into skipper scandal.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): Madam, in the statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 259, answered on 23-12-1994, regarding the probe into Skipper scandal, asked by Shri Viren J. Shah and Shri Pramod Mahajan, in reply to parts (d) to (g) of the question, in lines 19 and 20, for the words—

> "However, the position of arrears of ground rent, *including* interest on delayed payment or ground rent,"

may be read as—

> "However the position of arrears of ground rent, *excluding* interest on delayed payment of ground rent."